

Chariton Valley PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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Have you ever considered serving on a state board or commission? Chariton Valley Planning & Development staff can assist you with the submittal process to the state office. For a complete listing of available boards and commissions, visit, www.iowai.net/iowa/governor/boards/ or contact Tracy Daugherty Miller at 641.437.4359 or tdmiller@charitonvalleyplanning.com.

Sewer utility start-up gains financial backing of EPA, DNR



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recently announced its intentions to coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pool financial resources for the advancement of a regional sewer utility in the counties of Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, and Monroe.

DNR revealed that the agency will contribute \$55,000 to team with the EPA's previously announced commitment of \$30,000 for support of ADLM Public Facilities Management.

The ADLM Public Facilities Management, formed in 2005 as a four-county sewer utility, is locally directed and charged with owning and operating wastewater systems for very small communities and subdivisions. With the creation of the sewer utility, unsewered and unincorporated communities in southern Iowa are now eligible for federal and state aid for wastewater improvements.

According to Tracy Daugherty Miller, Executive Director of Chariton Valley Planning and Development which coordinated the financial backing from EPA and DNR, the

funds will be utilized for organizational planning and prioritization of needs.

"ADLM Public Facilities Management will begin working immediately on a plan to rank the needs of unsewered communities so that a strategy for installing improvements can be shared with EPA and DNR," explains Daugherty Miller. "The organization will then secure financing for the communities in order of most urgent need."

Bill Milani and Donnie Herten, co-directors of ADLM Public Facilities

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Historic Hills featured in Iowa Gardening magazine



The Historic Hills redbud tree planting program has resulted in a steady growth in the trees' numbers since the program began five years ago.

Now the program has grabbed the attention of Iowa Gardening magazine and is

featured in the April/Spring issue of the quarterly distributed magazine.

Redbud trees are currently in bloom and are recognized for their deep lavender blooms that mature to a light pink. Most communi-

ties in the Historic Hills Corridor have implemented a Redbud tree planting program with many currently conducting tree sales.

For more information, contact Chariton Valley Planning & Development.

Historic Hills receives scenic byway designation

The Iowa Scenic Byway Advisory Council has notified Chariton Valley Planning & Development that the application to rename and extend the existing Woodlands Scenic Byway to Historic Hills Scenic Byway has been approved.

In addition to the Historic Hills Scenic Byway designation, a segment of roadway - county road J3T from Moravia to Drakesville - has been added as a scenic byway in the heritage byway category.

A coalition of chamber directors, county supervisors, tourism advocates, county engineers, and economic development groups from Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, and Lee counties petitioned the Iowa Scenic Byway Advisory Council and the Iowa Department of Transportation in 2002 for the byway expansion and renaming.

The coalition, known as the Historic Hills Advisory Committee, spent many hours driving and analyzing a preferred extension route for the Historic Hills Scenic Byway prior to its proposal to the Iowa Scenic Byway Advisory Council.

John McCurdy, community development planner for

Chariton Valley Planning & Development says it is humbling to know the amount of effort and time that was put into getting this scenic byway designation.

"State recognition of the efforts of the Historic Hills group is very gratifying and is an important boost as we work toward bigger and better opportunities for southern Iowa," McCurdy.

The approved byway travels through six of the ten Historic Hills counties in southern Iowa, which includes Appanoose, Davis, Lee, Monroe, Van Buren, and Wapello.

The counties of Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, and Wayne which are on the western edge of the Historic Hills Corridor, will be included in a future byway extension nomination.

Troy Siefert, Scenic Byway Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Transportation says the byway development process, including signage recognizing the route and inclusion of the route on maps, will soon begin.

"There are many factors associated with the byway designation. Iowa DOT will begin by working with cities and counties along the designated byway on the sign installation process," explains Siefert in an official announcement letter to Chariton Valley Planning and Development.

Chariton Valley Planning & Development, with the assistance of the Historic Hills Advisory Committee will now pursue national byway status for the corridor.



Historic Hills Entrance Sign
Chariton Valley Planning and Development

Wayne County Engineer, Tim Ehrich, discusses Road Use Tax Fund

The following letter was written by Wayne County Engineer, Tim Ehrich, to the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in regard to the Road Use Tax Fund. It is reprinted here with permission.

As you know, for the past several years I have been following various legislative proposals that would effectively shut down Secondary Road Departments in rural counties. The most recent incarnation of this effort is House Study Bill 769 (HSB 769) that spells out the desire of the Iowa Chamber Alliance to defund rural Iowa.

To summarize, HSB 769 would eliminate the current Farm-To-Market Fund by incorporating it into the Secondary Road Fund; the Counties share of the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) would be decreased from 32.5% to 25%; and the distribution of the reduced County share of RUTF revenue among the individual Counties would be apportioned according to total population.

Wayne County's annual RUTF revenue would decrease from the current \$2,305,785 to \$577,121, a 75% decrease.

Polk County's annual RUTF revenue would increase from the current \$5,864,606 to \$32,123,325, an increase of 448%. Under the proposed terms of HSB 769 some \$29,906,084 or

91% of Polk County's RUTF revenue would be derived from its urban population.

In addition, the municipalities in Polk County would receive some \$49,849,591 as their share of the RUTF distributed to Cities for a total of \$81,972,915 in annual RUTF revenue to Polk County and the cities in Polk County.

This double counting of population would provide the jurisdictions in Polk County some \$80 million in RUTF. Contrast this to total RUTF revenue of to Wayne County and the cities in Wayne County of \$1,151,739. While the above numbers are approximations, the order of magnitude illustrates the devastating effect HSB 769 would have on Wayne County as well as two-thirds of all rural counties in Iowa.

For the past five years Iowa Chamber Alliance sponsored legislation has not made it past the legislative funnel. While the language of the legislation has been consistent this years legislation was assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee making it funnel proof.

That HSB 769 is funnel-proof should raise con-

cerns over the legislations potential to move forward at any time with little if any warning. It is important to recall the IDOT's unilateral transfer of jurisdiction of state highways to the counties. The original legislation appeared dead in the House Transportation Committee only to re-surface in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and become law in

very short-order.

Recent reports from Des Moines suggest that "something is going in the legislature with the RUTF."

"Ultimately, the Iowa Chamber Alliance efforts will result in the consolidation of our schools, hospitals, and other social services around large urban centers and satellite communities linked to urban centers by four lane highways."

- Tim Ehrich

The Iowa County Engineer Association (ICEA) has received inquiries on items ranging from the previous transfer of jurisdiction legislation, minimum local effort amount, carryover balances, level "B" roads, level "C" roads, how tax dollars are being diverted away from road uses and general items on numbers of miles, bridges, etc.

According to the Chair of the ICEA Legislative Committee, "They seem to be questioning the whole concept of the Farm to Market Fund and appear to be trying to eliminate it."

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Despite having incomplete information as to what is going on in the legislature it may be prudent to assume the Iowa Chamber Alliance has undertaken a stealth campaign to manipulate the legislative process and enact their program.

The Iowa Chamber Alliance proposal is an adoption of the Missouri model of directing resources to a few cities and urban counties at the expense of the rest of the state. Much of Iowa's rural transportation system would cease to function as would the economic, social, and cultural activities they serve.

It is important to remember Ron Corbett's (former Speaker of the House and member of the Cedar Rapids

Chamber of Commerce) statement in 2001 that a tax dollar spent in rural Iowa is a wasted tax dollar.

The Iowa Chamber Alliances efforts to divert RUTF revenue to a few urban areas is just one aspect of their plan.

Ultimately, Iowa Chamber Alliance efforts will result in the consolidation of our schools, hospitals, and other social services around large urban centers and satellite communities linked to urban centers by four lane highways.

As things stand the Iowa Chamber Alliance will eventually prevail. They

will not take no for an answer and will use whatever means necessary to bend the legislature to their will. If rural Iowa, as we know it, is to survive it is absolutely critical that our state and local elected officials and the local organizations that serve rural Iowa organize and mobilize a comprehensive effort to oppose the Iowa Chamber Alliance.

A successful opposition to the Iowa Chamber Alliance will require our elected officials and local organizations to assume a pro-active role in organizing and leading a comprehensive and long-term opposition to the Iowa Chamber Alliance plan.



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Management, have jointly identified 42 communities or subdivisions in the service area that require wastewater upgrades. Nearly 1,250 homes are impacted.

The first community to benefit from the new utility will be Plano. Earlier this month Plano received funding awards from USDA Rural Development and Iowa Department of Economic Development so that ADLM Public Facilities Management may construct a cen-

tralized sewer system.

Partners participating with the planning and acceleration of ADLM Public Facilities Management's goals include USDA Rural Development, Rathbun Land and Water Alliance, Chariton Valley Planning and Development, Monroe County, Appanoose County, Lucas County, Davis County, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Economic Development, and county public health departments.

Free grant writing workshop

A grant writing workshop is offered free of charge to Iowa Great Places participants. The workshop will be held in Ottumwa on May 3 at Indian Hills Community College in the Bennett Center - Room 100. The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Additional workshops will be held April 26 in Waterloo and May 1 in Storm Lake.

To register, visit www.iowagreatplaces.gov.